

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4420

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21468

USOECD

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJ: U.S. STRETCH FORM PRESS TO USSR - IL 1081 (CYRIL
BATH CASE)

REFS: A) COCOM DOC. (78) 108, B) PARIS 19326

C) PARIS 34016(77)

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE APPROACH OUTLINED IN REF B, MINE-
CON HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOLLIN
REGARDING THE EXPORT OF FRENCH STRETCH PRESSES TO THE
USSR. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:
"IN THE COURSE OF A RECENT INTERVIEW YOU EXPRESSED TO
ME YOUR CONCERN REGARDING THE EXPORT OF FRENCH STRETCH
PRESSES TO THE USSR. I WISH TO CONFIRM THAT, IN MY
OPINION, THE PRESSES WHICH WILL BE EXPORTED BY ATELIERS
ET CHANTIERS DE BRETAGNE TO THE USSR IN THE NEAR FUTURE
ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE COCOM PROCEDURES. WHILE OUR RE-
PRESENTATIVE HAS INDICATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO THE
APPROPRIATE BODY (COCOM) THAT THE EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION,
WHICH HAS BEEN ORDERED BY THE AVTOPROIMPORT CORPORATION
IS FOR A VERY GENERAL USE, I CAN GIVE YOU SOME OF ITS
CHARACTERISTICS:

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-NOMINAL DRAWING STRENGTH 300 TONS
-NOMINAL STRENGTH OF THE TABLE 600 TONS
-NOMINAL STRENGTH OF THE GANTRY 80 TONS
(THIS OPTIONAL GANTRY DOES NOT BRING ANY SPECI-
FIC IMPROVEMENT TO THE PRESS)
-JAW LENGTH 2,850 M/M (THE JAWS IN QUESTION ARE AN
INTEGRAL PART OF THE FLY PRESS, THE MOTION OF WHICH

IS NOT DISASSOCIATED FROM THAT OF THE JAW HOLDER,
CONTRARY TO THAT OF YOUR PRESS)
-WIDTH OF THE TABLE 450 M/M
-LENGTH OF THE TABLE 3,100 M/M
I WISH TO ADD THAT THE TOTAL SALE AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 12
MILLION DOLLARS. I HOPE THAT THIS INFORMATION MEETS
YOUR REQUESTS."

2. FOLLIN'S TECHNICAL DETAILS WOULD APPEAR TO DESCRIBE
ONLY ONE MODEL OF PRESS WITH CERTAIN SPECIFIC DIMENSIONS,
WITH THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT ALL OF THE FRENCH PRESSES
ARE THE SAME SIZE AND STRENGTH. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE
IN CONTRAST WITH THE STATEMENT IN THE NOV. 18, 1977 LET-
TER FROM THE FRENCH COCOM DEL TO USDEL WHICH INDICATED
THAT THE NINE HORIZONTAL HYDRAULIC PRESSES IN QUESTION
HAVE "STRENGTHS (FORCES) BETWEEN 300 AND 1,100 TONS."
(REF C). THE EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO ASK FOREIGN MINISTRY
FOR A CLARIFICATION OF THIS POINT IF THE DEPARTMENT IS OF
THE SAME VIEW AND WISHES TO HAVE THE ISSUE PURSUED. HOW-
EVER, BOTH EMBASSY AND USDEL ARE OF VIEW THAT IT IS UN-
LIKELY THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO PROVIDED
ANY SIGNIFICANT TECHNICAL DETAILS ON ITS PRESSES BEYOND
THAT ALREADY GIVEN IN COCOM OR BILATERALLY TO THE U.S.
3. AT JULY 4 COCOM MEETING, GERMAN DEL RESERVED HIS
POSITION AND USDEL GRANTED FURTHER ONE-WEEK EXTENSION
UNTIL JULY 11 MEETING. GERMAN DEL THEN NOTED THAT, IN
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PARA 5 OF COCOM DOC. (78) 108.3, FRENCH DEL HAD MADE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "THE MACHINES, THE EXPORT OF WHICH
THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES WERE PROPOSING TO AUTHORIZE ARE
USED TO FORM THIN SHEET; THEY WERE GENERAL PURPOSE AND
WOULD FALL UNDER ITEM 1072(B) BECAUSE THEY FORMED
METAL AND ALLOYS WITH A MELTING POINT BELOW 1,900C,
THEY WERE NOT EMBARGOED." THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES
NOTE THAT SUB-ITEM 1072(B) REFERRED TO "PRESSES SPECI-
ALLY "DESIGNED", WHEREAS THE FRENCH DELEGATION CLAIMED
THAT THE PRESSES FORMING THIN METAL WERE NOT COVERED.
THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHICH OF
THESE TWO CRITERIA SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION
AND THE GERMAN DEL ASKED FOR A CLARIFICATION FROM THE
FRENCH OR ANY OTHER DELEGATION. PLEASE INDICATE
WHETHER USDEL SHOULD MAKE ANY COMMENTS ON THIS POINT.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS CLEARED THIS MESSAGE.
SALZMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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